

## ABSTRACT

The present invention relates to an image processing apparatus and a method, and in particular to an image processing apparatus and a method preferably applicable to conversion of a wide dynamic-range image having a dynamic range of pixel values wider than the normal one to a narrow dynamic-range image having a narrower dynamic range of pixel values, and to enhancement of contrast. In step S1, an input wide-DR luminance image of the current frame is converted into a narrow-DR luminance image based on the intermediate information calculated for the previous frame's wide-DR luminance image. In step S2, the stored intermediate information of the previous frame is updated using the calculated intermediate information. In step S3, it is determined if there is any succeeding frame. If there is the succeeding frame, the process returns to step S1 and processes thereafter are repeated. The present invention is applicable to a digital video camera and the like.